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FIRST BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

FROM AUGUST 1, 1935—DECEMBER 1, 1936

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THE NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION
FOR THE BLIND

JUDGE SAM M. CATHEY, *Chairman*, Asheville, N. C.

MRS. MEYER STERNBERGER, Greensboro, N. C.

DR. HOWARD E. JENSEN, Durham, N. C.

MR. G. E. LINEBERRY, Raleigh, N. C.

MR. CHARLES H. WARREN, Raleigh, N. C.

ABILITIES FROM
VIRGINIA STATE

REPORT OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION
FOR THE BLIND

*To His Excellency, J. C. B. EHRLINGHAUS,
Governor of North Carolina:*

It becomes my duty as Chairman of the North Carolina State Commission for the Blind to hand you herewith a report of the different phases of the work done by this Commission since its organization a little over a year ago. This report clearly states in detail the operations of the Commission for the Blind during this period.

It has been the pleasure of the Commission to check carefully and supervise all receipts and expenditures. We wish to assure you that we have been as economical as possible and feel sure that you will be pleased with the splendid results obtained with the funds available.

The Commission was fortunate in securing for its Executive Secretary Dr. Roma S. Cheek, who has unusually fine training and fitness for the work. She is an A. B. and Ph. D. graduate of Duke University, and an M. A. of the University of Pennsylvania. She has had nine months special training in social work at the University of North Carolina and at the New York School of Social Work. In addition to teaching experience, she worked for some time with the woman's division of the State FERA and came from that work direct to the State Commission for the Blind. She is a lady of the highest type of Christian character, fine personality, sympathetic, energetic, efficient and fair-minded.

The Commission for the Blind for its beginning year, I am sure, has had an unprecedented record. The results have been more than we expected. When you have read the details of this work I am sure you will realize the need of the increase in the appropriation which is requested in this report.

Allow me to say also that it is very important that the present Commission law be amended to bring it into conformity with the requirements of the National Social Security Bill so that the blind of our State may receive the full benefits provided therein.

Yours very truly,

SAM M. CATHEY,
Chairman, Board Directors.



"Curly" has just come to North Carolina from the "Seeing Eye," the training center for "guide dogs," located in Morristown, N. J. She now serves as a guide to her blind master, giving him new independence and security as he goes about his work.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

"That it shall be the duty of this Commission to continue to make inquiries concerning the cause of blindness, to learn what proportion of these cases are preventable and to inaugurate and coöperate in any such measure for the State of North Carolina as may seem wise. The Commission may arrange for the examination of the eyes of the individual blind and partially blind persons and may secure and pay for medical and surgical treatment."—Chapter 53, Public Laws of North Carolina, 1935, Section 7.

The purpose of the Commission in the field of prevention of blindness is to work with all groups and all agencies interested in promoting and maintaining eye health and specifically to locate indigent persons needing eye care and to provide examinations, hospitalization, operations and treatment. Since from sixty to seventy-five per cent of blindness is preventable, this phase of the work is very important.

Through the courtesy and splendid coöperation of the Superintendent of the State School for the Blind, the Commission operated at the school infirmary a preventorium for white patients and the colored patients were hospitalized at Saint Agnes' Hospital. One hundred and eight operations were performed with excellent results.

In many cases it is necessary to perform more than one operation, as for example in cataract cases it is often necessary to needle, extract and remove a secondary membrane before the



best results can be obtained. Also in many cases where sight cannot be restored an operation is necessary to prevent constant pain and dissemination of poison over the patient's system. An operation is often necessary to prevent further loss of vision; as a trephine in glaucoma cases and the removal of an injured eye to prevent loss of vision in the good eye. The photograph on page 5 shows a group of sixteen patients who received eye operations at one of the clinics at the Preventorium.

The twenty-five operations not performed at the Preventorium were arranged for in local hospitals in various sections of the State, usually with the county or local association matching funds with the Commission to take care of the hospitalization.

The State Commission in coöperation with clubs, local associations, welfare departments, public health nurses and school officials holds county clinics for diagnosing, treating and refracting indigent school children and adults. The Commission pays the eye specialist twenty dollars a day if he is within his county and twenty-five dollars a day if he goes out of his county, and gives the cost price on glasses which it secures from the wholesale optical companies. The sponsoring club or group makes arrangements and pays for the glasses. Lions Clubs have thus far been especially interested in this project. Also in some counties Rotary, Kiwanis and Women's Clubs have been interested in sponsoring such clinics.

For all operations the Ophthalmologists give their services free for indigent cases. The Commission, however, takes care of the actual cost involved in the operation, paying three dollars in cases of minor operations and five dollars in cases of major operations.

During the sixteen months that the Commission has been in existence it has secured eye examinations either at the Preventorium or in county clinics for 772 persons, representing 62 counties. One hundred and fifty-seven persons were under ten years of age, 215 were between 10 and 20 years of age, 131 were between 20 and 40 years of age, 180 were between 40 and 60 years of age, 79 were between 60 and 80 years of age, and 10 were 80 years of age or over. The sex and race divisions were: 341 male and 431 female; 152 colored and 620 white. The services rendered this group were as follows:

Operated	133
Referred for Refraction.....	98
Refracted—glasses secured	420
Referred for physical examination.....	57
Sent to School for the Blind.....	14
Not amenable to treatment.....	50

The diagnoses for this group were as follows:

Cataracts	121	Arteria Stapedia.....	2
Keratitis	10	Glaucoma	33
Optic-atrophy	30	Retinitis-pigmentosa	25
Astigmatism	89	Presbyopia	79
Hypermetropia	214	Hemiplegia	3
Panophthalmitis	2	Iritis	5
Strabismus	23	Pterygium	9
Choria-retinal Degeneration....	9	Cornical Cornea	3
Amblyopia	5	Microphthalmos	3
Chronic Conjunctivitis.....	1	Keratoconus	1
Congenital Ptosis.....	3	Myopia	50
Error of Refraction.....	49	Hemorrhage	3

The limited funds of the Commission prevent the expansion of its preventive work in servicing any large portion of those who need eye care. As stated in the section on the survey and register, the Commission now has requests from a large number of persons needing eye attention who are financially unable to secure it. The need for such services was well stated by a well-known Ophthalmologist in the State, who spoke to a sponsoring club after he had given four days' service at one of the county clinics held in coöperation with the Commission:

He stated frankly that he was not in sympathy with the work at the outset as it was his belief that a need for such work did not exist. However, after completion of the first day of the clinic, he found himself thoroughly convinced that there was a need for such work and that heretofore such work had been woefully neglected. He stated further that he had often made the statement that he was glad that such eye conditions did not exist in his own native State as found in the metropolitan hospitals where he had worked. Such statements were made, he explained, because of lack of knowledge of the conditions as they do exist. In technical terms he enumerated the different types of eye conditions that he had diagnosed during the four clinic days and concluded his remarks by saying that he was anxious to assist in any way possible this important work and that further, to do this kind of work was worth a special course in any of the leading metropolitan centers.

Statements from some of those who had their vision restored at the Preventorium indicate some of the results of this phase of preventive work:

"I go to school every day and am in the sixth grade. Before my operation my eyes were crossed and looked bad and hurt me to read. Now I can study at night and make good grades and my friends all around say that they look so much better."

"I had been blind for seventeen years—totally blind in my left eye and only able to distinguish light in my right eye. I am now able to distinguish colors, figures and objects. I am working as a field laborer, cutting corn and chopping wood."

"I couldn't see any at all before my operation. I had to be led around everywhere I went. Now I can see, and although I am eighty-five years old and can't do any hard work I can go where I please. I pick beans and peas, wash dishes, peel vegetables, fruits, and kill lots of flies. No one will ever know how I appreciate my eyes—God only knows."

"When I came down there I could not see how to walk—just felt my way with a stick. Now I can see how to read, work and drive a car where I please."

"Before the three operations on my eyes my sight was greatly impaired for approximately ten years and for the past three or four years I have been almost totally blind. Now I can read the finest print. When I went there I could hardly see my hand before me unless I held it to the light. Now I can read the finest print without difficulty. I am once again able to go and preach the gospel as before and am happy in service."

"I hadn't been able to read in two years with my right eye and could just see a little out of my left eye. Now with my right eye I can see to read and thread a needle."

"The operation on my eye has done a wonderful lot of good. I can see to do most any kind of work now. Before it was operated on I couldn't see at all."

"The operation has helped me very much. Before I could see only a short distance away to tell what an object was. Now I can see twice or three times as far."

"How wonderful it is to be able to see again. A few months before the operation my sight had failed me completely. I could not recognize anybody or anything. I couldn't see to work. My right eye is still in need of an operation—but I can see good out of my left eye. I am so glad to see the beauty of the earth again. Living alone without sight, life was beginning to mean very little to me."

"Before my operation I was totally blind in my left eye and now I can sew almost perfectly and do all my housework and can see well enough to thread a needle which I hadn't been able to do for four years."

"Before I went up there to have the operation I could not see to read my Bible, but now I am able to read all right. I am able to see and do most any kind of work."

"I couldn't see any when I went to you all. Now I can see good enough to go around places. I have been able to work since I have been home."

"I was helped greatly by my operation. For the past four years I had been unable to leave the house on account of losing my way. Now I visit my neighbors, going and coming back by myself. I split a little stove wood and have helped a little in farm work, such as pulling fodder."

"I can see one hundred per cent better since my operation. I am at work every day on the farm."

"Before going I could only discern the difference in day and night, I could not and had not been able to see even the ground for about two years. My right eye was considered hopeless so I received treatment for the left one and now my sight is almost restored. I can, with the aid of glasses fitted me, see any ordinary headlines of a newspaper."

"The operations on my eyes that were given in Raleigh have helped a great deal. I am able to see to do all my housework—before the operation I could not do it."

"When I went to the hospital I was totally blind, but since my operation on my left eye I can see to walk about and to wait on myself."

"Before I came down there I had not worked much for the want of eyesight for six years, nor had I seen my family. After the operation on one of my eyes I can see good out of it and have worked all summer on the farm. When I got so that I could see my family it seemed that I had been gone a long time and had just come back. It was worth a thousand dollars and more to me. My other eye needs an operation and I hope that this can be arranged."

REGISTER

"That it shall be the duty of this Commission to cause to be maintained a complete register of the blind in the State of North Carolina, which shall describe the condition, cause of blindness, capacity for education and industrial training of each, with such other facts as may seem to the Commission to be of value."—Chapter 53, Public Laws of North Carolina, 1935, Section 3.

When the Commission began operation on August 1, 1935, plans were made for carrying into effect this final duty specified in the law. The State School for the Blind, the FERA, Public Welfare Departments, Eleemosynary Institutions, the Rehabilitation Department, and other agencies were contacted for information regarding blind persons known to them. Many blind persons, and friends of blind persons, learning of the creation of the Commission wrote directly to the Commission.

Realizing that no complete register of any population group was possible without a house-to-house canvass, the Commission drew up and submitted to the WPA a project providing for a house-to-house census to secure pertinent information about blind, deaf and crippled persons. Due to a ruling prohibiting such house-to-house canvasses, the project was not approved. In an effort to contact as nearly as possible, every home in the State, the Commission distributed through the children in public schools and the water and light bills of the utility companies printed information cards carrying the State seal and requesting the recipient to fill in the names of any persons known to him to be blind or to have seriously defective sight. More than 21,000 persons were reported.

There is no law requiring doctors to report patients who become blind, but a number of doctors are giving such reports to the Commission.

Through the coöperation of the WPA a project was begun in August, 1936, under the sponsorship of the Commission, to copy the existing records of persons who are blind or who have seriously defective vision on file in the various institutions and agencies in the State. Where new persons had been reported and no information was available, or where records were incomplete the workers have contacted the individuals and secured the information direct. This project, the Commission feels, has furnished invaluable information in helping the Commission to plan its program more constructively. The survey has been completed in sixty-six of the one hundred counties and is almost complete in the remaining thirty-four. A supplementary project has been approved to complete the work, including the making of final tabulations and charts.

Staff members of the Commission are visiting those reported by this survey for the purpose of securing more complete information, acquainting the individual with the services available under the Commission, and, where the individual desires, planning with him for his economic, social, or physical betterment.

A tabulation of all persons known to the Commission at the present date, who have such seriously defective sight that they cannot read ordinary print, with the aid of correcting glasses, is given by counties in the accompanying tables. Only a small part of these persons have been examined by an Ophthalmologist and it is possible with proper medical attention to remove a number of them from the classification of blind and place them in the group of the seeing. A study of the accompanying tables discloses very interesting information. When the work is complete in the one hundred counties, a number of very interesting facts regarding State-wide conditions and problems will be available.

TRAINING

"That the Commission shall . . . teach them (the blind) trades and occupations which may be followed in their homes, and to assist them in whatever manner may seem advisable to the Commission in disposing of the products of their home industry."—Public Laws of North Carolina, 1935, Chapter 53, Section 4.

"The Commission may also pay for lodging, tuition, support and all necessary expenses for blind persons during their training or instructions in any suitable occupation, whether it be in industrial, commercial or professional or any other establishments, schools or institutions, or through private instruction wherever in the judgment of the Commission such instruction or training . . . will contribute to the efficiency or self-support of such blind persons."—Public Laws of North Carolina, 1935, Chapter 53, Section 5.

assistance varies according to the needs of the individual and to the deficiencies in his school budget. Eight persons were given such assistance last year and eighteen are receiving aid this year.

The accompanying photographs show two classes of blind students receiving instruction in Braille, typing and various types of industrial work. Their teachers, who are also blind, are standing in the background.



EMPLOYMENT

"That the Commission shall maintain or cause to be maintained one or more bureaus of information and industrial aid, the object of which shall be to aid the blind in finding employment."—Public Laws of North Carolina, 1935, Chapter 53, Section 4.

"That the Commission may establish one or more training schools and workshops for employment of suitable blind persons and shall be empowered to equip and maintain the same . . . and may coöperate with shops already established . . . the Commission may also, whenever it thinks proper, aid individual blind persons or groups of blind persons to become self-supporting by furnishing material or machinery to them."—Public Laws of North Carolina, 1935, Chapter 53, Section 5.

Employment of the adult blind in seeing industrial and professional occupations is, of course, the main objective when considering means of self-support. The number of blind persons who are capable of being placed in these vocations is, of course, limited. Even after this group has been trained and has served the necessary apprenticeship period, it is very difficult to secure placements for them, because the seeing public does not realize that there are many types of work which the blind can do just as efficiently as seeing persons and that the natural precaution of the blind coupled with all the safety precautions of modern machinery for the protection of non-thinking seeing workers make many types of routine work ideal employment for the skilled blind person.

The two major objectives of employment are, first, to enable the blind person to become, as nearly as it is possible, economically independent; and second, to give to the individual wholesome, constructive activity to fill the otherwise endless hours of idleness enforced by blindness.

Because of the large number of seeing people unemployed and because of the difficulty of placing blind persons in ordinary industrial and professional occupations, the Commission has found that the most profitable placements which it has been able to make have been in the establishment of vending stands and small stores where cigarettes, candies, cigars, newspapers and other small articles are sold, provided a good location is obtained. A number of blind persons have also been aided with various types of equipment and materials for the operation of small businesses of their own, such as filling stations, broom and mattress businesses. In many cases, the lending of equipment or materials will enable a person whose income from the work he is engaging

in is below the marginal level for subsistence to increase his income to the point where he is self-supporting.

There is an increasing recognition of the fact that capably trained people with a handicap are employable in many fields of work. Mrs. May Thompson Evans, Director of the State Employment Service, commenting recently on this point, gave an excellent summary of the increasing recognition of the employability of handicapped persons. Mrs. Evans stated:

"The North Carolina State Employment Service operates free public employment offices for the use of all employable persons who register with the offices in seeking employment.

"The efficiency of performance is what determines congenial employment for the employe, and determines the necessary economic returns for the employer. Handicaps which prevent the greatest returns for both may be physical, mental, dispositional, or handicaps resulting from lack of education, training, or experience.

"It is the function of the Employment Service not only to make referral of the best qualified persons, in accordance with specific job requirements, but it is also incumbent upon the Employment Service as an institution to seek and find suitable employment. Persons who have been physically rehabilitated, persons who have the physical handicap of deafness, and persons with defective sight, if vocationally trained and registered with the Employment Service, are applicants who present no greater problem than many other applicants."

The North Carolina State Employment Service, to aid in the placement of blind people, has formed with the State Commission a joint Placement Service for Persons with Defective Sight. The expenses of this service are equally divided between the two agencies. At the conclusion in January of the present survey by which the Commission will have secured pertinent information about the blind in the State, those who are trained and ready for employment will be registered in the Employment Offices in the various sections of the State and referred for placement as work opportunities develop in fields for which they are especially

trained. The following table presents concisely the types of occupations and the average weekly wage of blind persons who have been aided in securing employment.

EMPLOYMENT

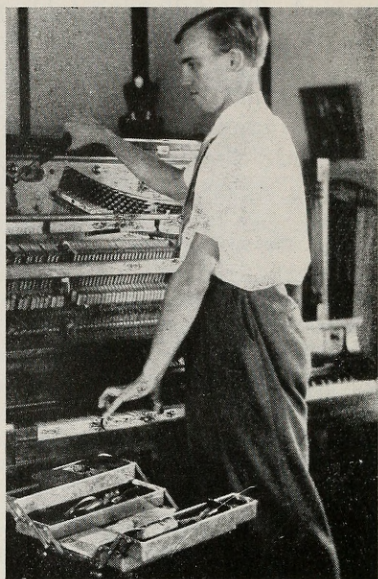
August 1, 1935-December 1, 1936

TYPE OF OCCUPATION	NUMBER PERSONS			Approximate Average Weekly Wage or Earnings
	Men	Women	Total	
News concession stands.....	7	3	10	\$10.00
Mattress business.....	8	0	8	8.00
Common laborers.....	8	0	8	6.00
Small stores.....	8	3	11	10.00
Teachers.....	4	10	14	12.50
Workers in shops.....	17	8	25	8.00
Stenographer.....	0	1	1	15.00
Shop foremen.....	3	0	3	12.50
Placement agents.....	2	1	3	22.55
Survey workers.....	0	2	2	12.50
Shop superintendent.....	1	0	1	25.00
Rehabilitation agents.....	2	0	2	25.00
Filling stations.....	1	0	1	9.00
Piano tuners and repairers.....	5	0	5	11.00
Part time stands.....	3	1	4	3.50
Poultry raising.....	5	1	6	Undetermined
Stock raising.....	1	0	1	Undetermined
Swine raising.....	1	0	1	Undetermined
Piano teacher (private).....	0	1	1	Irregular
TOTAL.....	76	31	107	

Weekly reports are required from those operating businesses which bring a regular weekly income. The person is visited by the placement agents in an effort to plan with him ways and means for increasing his income and to approve any new equipment items which may be asked for if the person is not earning a sufficient amount to provide them for himself. The accompanying photographs illustrate a few of the different types of employment in which the blind have been aided.



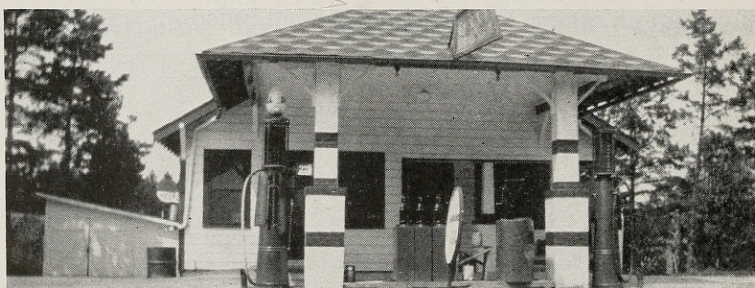
STREET NEWS STAND



REPAIRING AND TUNING A PIANO



INTERIOR OF SMALL STORE OF BLIND WOMAN



FILLING STATION OF BLIND MAN



LIGHT LUNCH AND CONFECTION STAND OF BLIND MAN



INTERIOR OF SMALL MATTRESS BUSINESS OPERATED BY BLIND



BLIND MAN OPERATING POULTRY FARM.



SMALL DRINK AND CONFECTION STAND
OF BLIND MAN

In view of the fact that there is a large group of blind people who are capable of producing eight hours a day but who do not have the ability to operate businesses of their own and who need to work under direction and special supervision, sheltered workshops have been established to provide employment for this group and to provide industrial training. These workshops are non-profit-making organizations established jointly by the Commission and a local club or association. The Commission furnishes the equipment, aids in the employment of personnel, and pays the training expenses of trainees sent to the shop. The local club or association secures the location, provides the materials, takes care of the marketing, assumes responsibility for all overhead expenses, and manages the shop. A properly operated shop provides an excellent opportunity for the State to train the blind at a minimum cost.

All shops serve two major purposes, furnishing both employment and training to the blind. Industrial training is given to those who are to be established in businesses of their own as well as those who will become employed in the shop when their training is completed. Those who remain in the shop are given regular employment on a piece-work basis. The shops make regular reports to the Commission, regarding their production and financial transactions.

There have been established in the State five small workshops and two industrial centers. The Guilford County Workshop for



the Blind, which operates under the sponsorship of the Guilford County Association for the Blind, operates in a two-story fireproof building given rent-free by the city of Greensboro. The major industry of this shop is broom making. Brushes, mops, chair bottoms, rugs and various types of novelty work are also made. The shop employs an average of thirteen workers on a piece-work basis. In addition to this group, blind persons are sent to the shop to receive industrial training. The photograph on page 19 shows the broom department.

The Mecklenburg County Workshop for the Blind, operated under the sponsorship of the Mecklenburg County Association for the Blind and the Charlotte Lions Club, has as its major industry, mattress-making. Mop work, chair caning, sewing and various types of novelty work are also done. The Mecklenburg Shop is not in operation at present because they were forced to give up the building in which they were operating. Industrial teaching is now being done in one room. The Association purchased a lot one hundred by one hundred and eighty feet and deeded it to the Commission and also raised and gave to the Commission \$512.60 to be applied on the cost of the construction of the building, which is being built on a WPA project under the sponsorship of the Commission, which is contributing \$1,800 to make the \$2,312.60 necessary for the sponsor's contribution. The total cost of the building, which will be forty-five by one hundred feet in size, is \$7,107.70.



The Durham Lions Club Workshop for the Blind is operated in a downtown two-story brick and steel building loaned rent-free to the club by the owners. The major industries of this shop are mattress-making and rubber mat-making, with chair caning and novelty sewing as smaller industries. There are eleven blind persons in the shop, four of whom are taking industrial training. The shop was established seven months ago and is managed by five principal club committees: Production, Sales, Purchasing, Personnel and Finance. The photograph on page 20 shows the interior of the first floor of the shop.

The Asheville Lions Club Workshop for the Blind began operation last March in a school building loaned to the club by the city. Mattress-making and renovating are the major industries. Chair caning and basketry are also done. Of the ten blind people in the shop, there is an average of six trainees. The accompanying photograph shows the finishing room of the mattress department.



The Twin Cities Industrial Workshop for the Colored Blind was opened in November of this year, being operated under the sponsorship of a group of leading colored citizens in Winston-Salem. Workers in the shop will make mattresses, brooms, brushes, uniforms and dresses, and cane chairs. The shop has just opened with six trainees who, after they have learned the work, will be placed on a piece-work basis.

There are two industrial centers in the State which are, at present, operated chiefly to give industrial training to the blind in the local community. These industrial training centers are operated under the sponsorship of the Forsyth County Association for the Blind in Winston-Salem, and the Cumberland County Association for the Blind, in Fayetteville. The Commission gives the same aid to these centers as it does to the workshops. The Association secures the building, furnishes the material and supervises the center. Instructions are given in Braille, weaving, chair caning, basketry, sewing and various types of novelty work. The classes average from six to ten persons. It is quite possible that these two centers will develop into workshops.

AID FROM OTHER AGENCIES

WPA

The various divisions of the WPA have rendered invaluable services. Four state-wide projects providing for a survey of the blind, for the employment of blind piano tuners to tune pianos in public buildings, and for industrial work for men and for women were drawn up and submitted. The first two have been approved. The WPA project for compiling a survey of the blind population in the State, giving pertinent information about each individual, is nearing completion. A supplementary project has been approved to complete the records and tabulations. The piano tuning project will be put into operation the first of 1937. Fourteen blind persons are teaching Braille and various handicrafts on the adult teaching program. Materials are furnished jointly by WPA and the Commission. Four projects have been drawn up and submitted for local associations. These were not approved because of changes in WPA rulings. A WPA project for the construction of a building in Charlotte, to be used permanently as a workshop is nearing completion. Under the handicraft division of the recreation project, handicraft instructors have been secured to give instructions at two of the workshops. Some office help has also been secured under the clerical project.

DEPARTMENT OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

The Commission works very closely with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, carrying many cases jointly. The Rehabilitation Department pays half the salaries of the two Rehabilitation agents of the Commission and the Industrial Supervisor.

NORTH CAROLINA EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

The North Carolina Employment Service operates with the Commission a joint Placement Agency for persons with defective sight, taking care of one-half the expenses. The regular Placement staff in the various employment offices in the State will aid in securing employment opportunities for persons with defective sight.

STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

The State School for the Blind loaned to the Commission its infirmary during the summer months for the operation of a Preventorium. Full coöperation has been given in all other phases of the work.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The American Foundation for the Blind, in coöperation with the Library of Congress, has made on a special project a number of Talking Books which have been loaned to the Commission at no cost except the payment of freight, for distribution among blind people not able to buy them. A representative of the American Foundation for the Blind very ably conducted in December, 1935, a "Week for the Blind" for the Guilford County Association, and another staff member aided in organizing the Buncombe County Association for the Blind. The Foundation also disseminates literature and information regarding work for the Blind throughout the nation. The National Society for the Prevention of Blindness disseminates valuable information regarding the prevention of blindness.

LIONS CLUBS

The Thirty-first District of Lions International, which comprises all the clubs in North Carolina, has as its major project "Work for the Blind." The 1936 State Convention voted to present a trophy each year to the club which carried on the best project for the blind. A wide variety of worthwhile and far-reaching projects are being sponsored by members of all the forty-two clubs in the State, most of whom are coöperating in some way with the Commission. The blind people in the State are coming to regard all Lions as "friends of the blind."

OTHER INDIVIDUALS AND AGENCIES

The Public Welfare Departments and Departments of Public Health, especially Public Health nurses have given excellent coöperation in the development of the work. The doctors have given unsparingly of their time and interest to aid in Prevention Work.



Rotary, Kiwanis and Women's Clubs have coöperated in establishing local blind persons in business and in Prevention Work.

ASSOCIATIONS

The State Association for the Blind, composed of leading citizens in the State, who are interested in the problems of the blind, has given its full coöperation to the work of the Commission. County Associations for the Blind have been formed in six of the key counties of the State, namely, Guilford, Mecklenburg, Durham, Buncombe, Forsyth and Cumberland. These Associations have coöperated very closely with the Commission in carrying on programs for the blind and for the prevention of blindness in their counties.

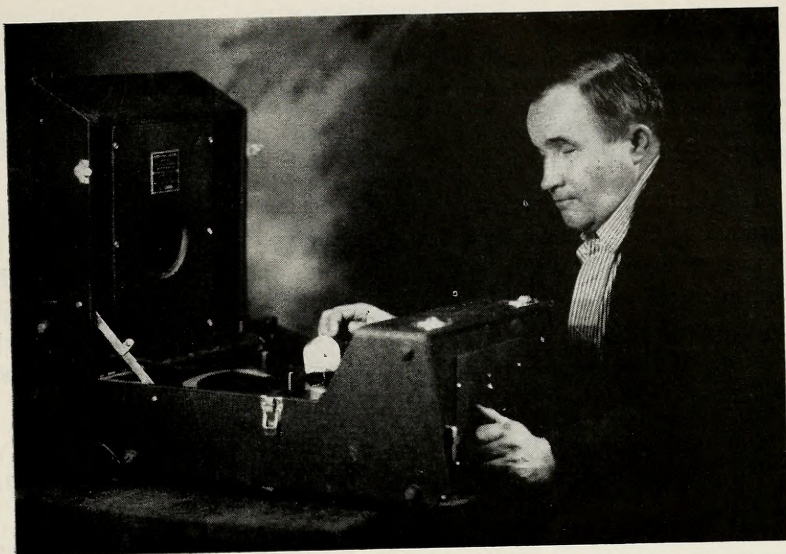
MISCELLANEOUS

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Commission has endeavored to present to the seeing public the need for the prevention of blindness and the conservation of vision and to acquaint them with the capabilities of the blind, and the need for opening up opportunities for their employment. Forty industrial exhibits have been arranged, one hundred and thirty talks have been made before clubs and other interested groups. Seventy-six radio broadcasts have been given, and a number of educational articles have been released through the press. One intensive "Educational Week for the Blind" was arranged.

RECREATION

The importance of wholesome recreation for the blind cannot be over-emphasized. At least as many seeing persons as blind should participate in every recreational function. The blind should be encouraged to fit into the normal social groups in which they would find themselves if they could see. No State-wide recreation program has been planned, but staff members of the Commission have worked with local groups in arranging various types of entertainment. Twenty-one entertainments have been arranged with a total attendance of 875 persons, 295 of whom were blind and 580 seeing. A number of talking books have been placed in the homes of blind persons unable to buy them. The photograph on page 25 shows one of these books being enjoyed by the blind person to whom it has been loaned. Theatre managers in five of our larger cities give regularly free passes to a blind person and guide.

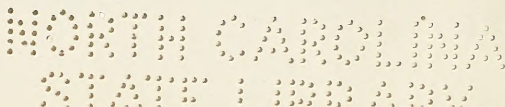


When asked if he enjoyed the "Talking Book" the borrower of this book said:

"I regard it as an invention helping to free the blind from the bonds of blindness. It enables us to read whenever we like and liberates us from the slow reading so common to the blind. The "Talking Book" is a faithful servant which obeys our commands without complaining or weariness."

CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS

The Commission was officially represented at the Vocational Rehabilitation Conference (Washington, D. C., in September, 1935); North Carolina Conference of Social Work (Durham, N. C., in April, 1936); District Welfare Conferences (March, 1936); American Association of Instructors for the Blind (Raleigh, N. C., in June, 1936); State Convention Lions Clubs (High Point, N. C., in June, 1936); North Carolina Association of Workers for the Blind (Burlington, N. C., in June, 1936); Institute of North Carolina State Employment Service (Chapel Hill, N. C., in June, 1936); Conference on Administration of the Randolph-Sheppard Bill (Washington, D. C., in September, 1936); District Welfare Conference (November, 1936), and at the meetings of the State Association for the Blind (October, 1935, Durham, N. C.; Charlotte, February, 1936; Winston-Salem, October, 1936).



RECOMMENDATIONS

The Annual Report shall present a concise review of the work of the Commission for the preceding year, with such suggestions and recommendations for improving the conditions of the blind and preventing blindness as may seem expedient.—Public Laws of North Carolina, Chapter 53, Section 8.

The Commission recommends a continuance and normal development of the phases of the work already begun and reviewed in the preceding pages. In order that this may be accomplished the Commission is requesting an increase of \$13,000 annually in its appropriation for rehabilitation and prevention of blindness work. The specific items on which increases are needed and are shown on the suggested budget are as follows:

Item 102: Salaries, staff, has been increased by \$360.00 in order to employ a full-time file clerk, who has in the past been employed only half-time.

Item 104: Supplies and materials, has been increased by \$100.00, because it seems more economical to furnish each of the staff members direct from the office. The Commission also plans to purchase necessary books which deal with case work, rehabilitation and prevention of blindness, for the use of the staff.

Item 105: Postage, telephone and telegrams, has been increased by \$200.00 in order to pay the freight charges for securing and distributing the Talking Books loaned to the Commission for the Blind by the Library of Congress.

Item 107: Printing, has been increased by \$15.00, because additional office forms will need to be printed.

Item 109: Bonding, has been increased by \$5.00, because an increase in appropriation is being asked and additional bonding will be necessary.

Item 302: Traveling expense for the State-wide nurse, has been increased by \$100, because the nurse will have to operate in all of the one hundred counties of the State.

Item 303: Examinations and operations, has been increased by \$500 because the present survey being made by the Commission is bringing to its attention many persons who need refraction, treatment and operation. The Commission pays the eye specialist to take care of the actual cases, one dollar for refraction, three dollars for a minor operation and five dollars for a major operation, and matches funds with the county to take care of the hospitalization so that even the \$3,100.00 is inadequate for this work on a State-wide basis.

Item 304: Medical appliances, has been increased by \$300.00. This is necessary because where fitting of glass eyes or glasses is considered a completion of the operation, the Commission takes care of this expense when funds cannot be secured locally.

Item 305: Printing, has been increased by \$20.00 in order to take care of the necessary medical forms to be printed for the Ophthalmologist to fill out for needy school children and adults.

Item 306: Supplies and materials, has been increased by \$75.00 because it is necessary to purchase for the nurse equipment and materials with which to conduct eye examinations and also to purchase cards to be printed for medical records.

Item 403: Salaries of shop superintendents and foremen, has been increased by \$2,880 to provide for four shop foremen to be employed during the next biennium. Four new workshops have recently been opened and it will be necessary to employ a shop foreman in each of these at the rate of \$60.00 a month.

Item 404: Salaries of teachers and instructors, has been increased by \$4,385 to give employment to five additional home teachers at \$60.00 per month, who have been, during the past two years, paid from WPA funds, but will, most probably, have to be paid from Commission funds during the next two fiscal years. This makes the total home teaching staff eight, four teachers having twelve counties, and four teachers having thirteen counties.

Item 405: Supplies and materials, has been increased by \$1,761 because the Commission expects to establish a large number of blind people in businesses of their own and in home industries, and the supplies and materials for establishing them are furnished by the Commission.

Item 406. Travel expenses, has been increased by \$1,054 because the home teachers, four of whom are to have twelve counties and four thirteen counties, will have to employ a guide at the minimum wage of \$15.00 a month, which leaves only an average of \$24.42 monthly for the travel expense of each of the twelve staff members.

Item 407: Training expenses, has been increased by \$543.00 because the great majority of adult blind in North Carolina are not trained for any occupation and the Commission pays their room and board and all other expenses if trained at an industrial center, for a period of from four to six months. The Commission also aids a number of blind persons in colleges and universities.

Item 408: Equipment, has been increased by \$677.00 because the great majority of blind people have no funds with which to purchase any equipment to get them started in business and the Commission must buy and loan the various kinds of equipment needed for the different businesses in which the blind are established. Also, the Commission must furnish equipment for the various workshops and industrial centers established in the State.

Item 410: Printing, has been increased by \$25.00 so that the Commission can print mattress labels for blind mattress workers in the State and also print catalogues for the five workshops and two industrial centers.

The 1936 budget contrasted with the budget needed for 1937 shows comparatively the needs for the increases.

COMPARISON OF PRESENT AND PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET

PURPOSES AND/OR OBJECTS	Annual Operating Budget Under Present Appropriation 1936-1937	Annual Operating Budget Under Appropriation Requested 1937-1938
I. ADMINISTRATION		
101 Salary, Executive Secretary	\$ 1,353	\$ 1,353
102 Salaries, staff	1,800	2,160
103 Expenses of commission	200	200
104 Supplies and materials	100	200
105 Postage, telephone and telegrams	400	600
106 Travel expenses	240	250
107 Printing	50	65
108 General expense	30	30
109 Bonding	10	15
110 Equipment	200	200
Total Administration	\$ 4,383	\$ 5,073
II. STATISTICS AND INFORMATION		
201 Salaries, Direction	1,400	.....
202 Travel expense	600	.....
203 Supplies and materials	50	.....
204 Printing	50	.....
*Total Statistics and Information.....	\$ 2,100	.....
III. EXAMINATION, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION STUDIES		
301 Salary, State-wide nurse	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200
302 Mileage	500	600
*303 Examinations and operations	1,800	3,100
304 Medical appliances	200	500
305 Printing	10	30
306 Supplies and materials	25	100
Total Exam. and Prev. studies	\$ 3,735	\$ 5,530
IV. TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT		
401 Salary, Rehab. Agents	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200
402 Salary, Placement Agent	1,200	1,200
403 Salary, Shop Supt. and Foremen	1,200	4,080
404 Salary, Teachers	1,375	5,760
405 Supplies and materials	1,522	3,283
**406 Travel expenses	1,500	4,054
**407 Training expenses	1,622	2,200
**408 Equipment	1,823	4,500
409 Salary, Industrial Supervisor	600	600
410 Printing	50	75
*411 Trucks	890	445
*412 Work shop	1,800	.....
Total Training and Employment	\$14,782	\$27,397
Appropriation	\$25,000	\$38,000
Estimated receipts	10,112	5,567
Total	\$35,112	\$43,567

*These items will not be needed in the next biennium so that these funds were allotted for next year to items 303, 406, 407 and 408 (**).

It is further recommended that the present Commission Law be amended or supplemented to comply with Title X of the Federal Social Security law so that direct aid will be available for the needy blind. The Commission received in February and March \$3,324.99 from the Social Security Board. The Commission used these funds to match the direct relief funds being given by the Counties. No more funds, however, were granted the Commission, because not all of the 100 counties were participating in the plan and the final decision of the Commission was not mandatory.

The Commission has during the past year gathered data in an effort to learn the number of blind persons in need of relief and to determine how Social Security funds might be most effectively used to aid the blind. The Commission has found a large number of blind persons whose families cannot support them and who need direct aid grants because:

(1) Many have a handicap in addition to blindness, such as poor health, advanced age or other physical disability and can never become employable.

(2) A number of those who are capable of employment need a relief grant until they can be trained and employed.

(3) Many blind can be made partially self-supporting, but must have a small grant to supplement their small income.

(4) Since approximately sixty-five per cent of all blindness comes in adult life, it makes it necessary for the individual to be completely re-educated and readjusted, and during this slow and difficult period, the necessities of life cannot be obtained by the efforts of the individual.

(5) Many rural blind in North Carolina live in isolated communities where their families are tenant farmers and where there are no economic opportunities. A small relief allowance is necessary to buy clothing and other necessities which must be furnished in addition to food which cannot be secured from the farm.

(6) When a blind person has been trained and established in a business he often needs a small grant to aid him for the first four or six months, because the profits for the first period must go back into the business to build up a good stock. He can then be self-supporting.

The records of the Commission indicate that there are now in North Carolina 1,453 blind persons in need of relief. This estimate is less than the average in other states; for in the twenty-six states now receiving aid to the blind under the Social Security Act, there are fifty-one persons per one hundred thousand population. Based on this figure, the number in North Carolina

would be 1,670. The returns of the survey now being made indicate that there will be approximately five thousand blind in North Carolina. The estimate that 1,453 need relief includes only twenty-nine per cent of the blind population, or less than one-third. Of the twenty-six states receiving Federal aid, in six of these (Colorado, Idaho, New Hampshire, Utah, Washington and Wyoming) approximately one-half the total blind population receive direct relief; while in Pennsylvania approximately seven-eighths of all the blind receive relief, and in Maine approximately two-thirds. Of the remaining states, in five (California, Indiana, Maryland, Nebraska and Vermont) approximately one-third of the total blind population are receiving relief.

The average relief grant per recipient for the twenty-six states participating in aid to the blind is approximately twenty-four dollars and fifty cents per blind individual, monthly.

If the State Commission could give an average of five dollars a month to the blind in need of relief and this could be matched by another five dollars from the county, the Federal Government would match this with ten dollars making the average relief grant in North Carolina to needy blind persons twenty dollars a month, which would be four dollars and fifty cents less than the total average grant per recipient in the other twenty-six states, and is thus a very conservative figure. Realizing, however, that large amounts of money are necessary for North Carolina to comply with all phases of the Social Security Act, the Commission is presenting only the most conservative figure.

On the above basis the total grant by the State Legislature needed for direct relief to the needy Blind would be \$85,180.00. If the counties give an equal amount, this would provide \$170,-360.00 to be matched dollar for dollar by the Federal Government.

Reports from the Social Security Board show that Indiana and Wisconsin, which have about the same population as North Carolina, are giving annually approximately \$240,000.00 and \$320,000.00, respectively, in relief alone to the needy blind. The State of Washington, which has only about half the population of North Carolina, is giving annually, approximately \$200,000.00 in relief, and Maine, which has only about one-fourth the population of North Carolina, is giving approximately \$160,000.00 for blind relief alone. All of these amounts are being doubled with Federal funds by the Social Security Board. Other states, larger than North Carolina, have appropriated much more in relief to the needy Blind, but since all phases of Social Security are to be considered and large sums are necessary for each, the Commission is presenting its most conservative figure. In order for North

Carolina to receive Social Security funds for the blind, the Federal Act wisely provides that the funds must be administered or supervised by a single State agency.

Of the twenty-six states administering aid to the blind under the Social Security Act, only a few have in existence State Commissions for the Blind. The administering agencies are as follows: In six states it is administered by Emergency Relief setups; in fourteen, by the Department of Welfare; in one, by a Board of Pensions for Confederate veterans; in one by the messenger to the Governor; and in four by State Commissioners for the Blind.

The reports of the Social Security Board show that New Jersey has the lowest per capita cost for blind receiving direct aid grants of any of the twenty-six states participating. Here the funds are administered by the Commission for the Blind and in connection with a rehabilitation program, at great saving to the State.

In those states where aid to the blind is administered by a Commission for the Blind in connection with its rehabilitation program, there is an average of eighteen recipients per one hundred thousand population; while in other states where it is administered separately and not by a Commission for the Blind, there is an average of fifty-two recipients per one hundred thousand population, or approximately three times as many blind on relief.

The members of the Commission recommend that the North Carolina Commission for the Blind administer the relief to the needy blind because:

1. The Commission is the only State Agency whose entire attention and activity are devoted solely and specifically to the problems of the blind. Because of this fact the Commission possesses specialized knowledge and practical experience which will enable it to administer relief funds most effectively in connection with its rehabilitation program.

2. It has been the experience of other States that relief administered apart from a rehabilitation program will act as a detriment to the individual's ambition for self-support.

3. The Commission can plan with the blind person to use relief funds matched by the Federal Government to carry out a plan of rehabilitation and eventually make him self-supporting, or to supplement earnings during the early months while the worker is getting established in business, or to improve or restore vision.

4. The blind person, because of his difficulty in getting about needs one central agency to aid him and correlate his total program of medical service, vocational training, education, relief, employment, etc.

5. Relief can be administered by the State Commission for the Blind more economically than on a separate basis, because the Commission has

pertinent information in its files about all the Blind, and sends teachers and agents into the homes of the Blind to teach them Braille, industrial work, etc.

6. The Commission is requiring for its files a medical report signed by an eye specialist, and provides funds for securing these examinations. Administration of funds by the Commission will avoid an unnecessary and expensive duplication of eye examinations.

7. The Commission for the Blind will know about progressive blindness and other phases of blindness which require technical knowledge not developed by the general relief agencies, and technical treatment, which other agencies are not equipped to give.

EXPENDITURES

(August 1, 1935-December 1, 1936)

PURPOSES AND/OR OBJECTS	Expended Aug. 1, 1935- June 30, 1936	Expended July 1, 1936- Dec. 1, 1936	Unexpended Dec. 1, 1936- June 30, 1937
I. ADMINISTRATION			
101 Salary, Executive Secretary	\$1,848.70	\$ 436.25	\$ 916.75
102 Salaries, staff	1,138.64	864.49	935.51
103 Expenses of Commission	172.52	45.35	154.65
104 Supplies and materials	149.21	66.47	33.53
105 Postage, tel. and tel.	646.38	356.31	243.69
106 Travel expenses	448.35	124.20	115.80
107 Printing	54.37	20.79	29.21
108 General expense	26.03	.....	30.00
109 Bonding	12.50	10.00	.....
110 Equipment	802.66	41.41*	275.59
Total Administration	\$5,299.36	\$1,965.27	\$2,734.73
II. STATISTICS AND INFORMATION			
201 Salaries, Direction	1,237.42	893.06	706.94
202 Travel expense	1,816.27	550.35	249.65
203 Supplies and materials	158.94	26.69	73.31
204 Printing	202.23	17.52	82.48
Total Statistics and Inform.	\$3,414.86	\$1,487.62	\$1,112.38
III. EXAMINATION, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION STUDIES			
301 Salary, state-wide nurse	592.30	166.67	1,033.33
302 Mileage	139.39	5.50	494.50
303 Examinations and operations ..	116.04	1,746.61*	913.39
304 Medical appliances	182.02	183.93*	576.07
305 Printing .....	.....	.....	10.00
306 Supplies and materials	93.48	3.49	21.51
307 Operation of Preventorium	799.64	.....	.....
Total Exam. and Prev. studies ..	\$1,922.87	\$2,106.20	\$2,988.80

* Current receipts have been deposited to the credit of these items and expended.

EXPENDITURES—(Continued)

PURPOSES AND/OR OBJECTS	Expended Aug. 1, 1935- June 30, 1936	Expended July 1, 1936- Dec. 1, 1936	Unexpended Dec. 1, 1936- June 30, 1937
IV. TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT			
401 Salary, Rehab. Agents	\$ 1,031.08	\$ 1,000.00*	\$ 1,400.00
402 Salary, Placement Agent	1,011.52	500.00	700.00
403 Salary, Shop Superintendent..	1,526.64	500.00	700.00
404 Salary, Teachers	448.45	527.10	847.90
405 Supplies and materials	2,165.58	797.39	837.61
406 Travel expenses	196.92	1,060.47*	1,339.53
407 Training expenses	3,246.37	4,097.26*	1,300.74
408 Equipment	6,451.46	2,540.90	634.10
409 Salary, Industrial Supv.	35.23	466.67*	733.33
410 Printing	32.59	39.37	10.63
411 Trucks		437.37	452.63
412 Work shop		478.50	1,321.50
Total Training and Employment	\$16,145.84	\$12,455.03	\$10,277.97
V. RESERVE	.....	.....	.....
VI. FEDERAL FUNDS			
601 Aid to blind	\$ 3,358.83	.....	.....
Total Federal funds	3,358.83	.....	.....
VII. SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDS			
701 Aid to blind	5,197.58	.....	.....
Total supplementary funds..	\$ 5,197.58	.....	.....
Appropriation	\$24,165.06	\$13,315.82	\$11,685.28
Estimated receipts	11,174.28	4,688.30	5,428.70
Total	\$35,339.34	\$18,004.12	\$17,113.98

* Current receipts have been deposited to the credit of these items and expended.

S. B. 73

CHAPTER 53

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A STATE COMMISSION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF THE BLIND AND THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS IN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION THEREOF.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

SECTION 1. That there shall be established a State Commission, to be known as the North Carolina State Commission for the Blind, consisting of three persons, to be appointed by the Governor within thirty days after the passage of this act. The Superintendent of the State School for the Blind and the State Supervisor of Vocational Rehabilitation shall be ex-officio members of this commission.

SEC. 2. That the full term of office of the members of this Commission with the exception of the Superintendent of the State School for the Blind and the State Supervisor of Vocational Rehabilitation shall be five years. The term of office of the said ex-officio members shall be contemporaneous with their tenure of office as Superintendent of the State School for the Blind and State Supervisor of Vocational Rehabilitation, respectively. But of the first commission appointed, one member shall be appointed for a term of five years, one for a term of three years and one for a term of one year. At the expiration of the term of any member of the Commission, his successor shall be appointed for a term of five years.

SEC. 3. That it shall be the duty of this Commission to cause to be maintained a complete register of the blind in the State of North Carolina, which shall describe the condition, cause of blindness, capacity for education and industrial training of each, with such other facts as may seem to the Commission to be of value.

SEC. 4. That the Commission shall maintain or cause to be maintained one or more bureaus of information and industrial aid, the object of which shall be to aid the blind in finding employment and to teach them trades and occupations which may be followed in their own homes, and to assist them in whatever manner may seem advisable to the Commission in disposing of the products of their home industry.

SEC. 5. That the Commission may establish one or more training schools and workshops for employment of suitable blind persons and shall be empowered to equip and maintain the same, to pay to employes suitable wages, and to devise means for the sale and distribution of the products thereof, and may coöperate with shops already established. The Commission may also pay for lodging, tuition, support and all necessary expenses for blind persons during their training or instructions in any suitable occupation, whether it be in industrial, commercial, or professional or any other establishments, schools or institutions, or through private instruction wherever in the judgment of the Commission such instruction or training can be obtained, when in its judgment the training or instruction in question will contribute to the efficiency or self-support of such blind persons. When special educational opportunities cannot be had within the State, they may be arranged for, at the discretion of the Board, outside of the State. The Commission may also, whenever it thinks proper, aid individual blind persons or groups of blind persons

to become self-supporting by furnishing material or machinery to them, and may also assist them in the sale and distribution of their products; but this shall not be deemed to authorize the making of gifts by the Commission.

SEC. 6. That the Commission may ameliorate the condition of the blind by promotion visits among them and teaching them in their homes as the Commission may deem advisable.

SEC. 7. That it shall be the duty of this Commission to continue to make inquiries concerning the cause of blindness, to learn what proportion of these cases are preventable and to inaugurate and coöperate in any such measure for the State of North Carolina as may seem wise. The Commission may arrange for the examination of the eyes of the individual blind and partially blind persons and may secure and pay for medical and surgical treatment for such persons whenever in the judgment of a qualified Ophthalmologist the eyes of such person may be benefitted thereby.

SEC. 8. That the Commission may appoint such officers and agents as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act and their compensation shall be fixed within the limits of the annual appropriation by the Director of Personnel, but no persons employed by the Commission shall be a member thereof. The annual report shall present a concise review of the work of the Commission for the preceding year, with such suggestions and recommendations for improving the conditions of the blind and preventing blindness as may seem expedient.

SEC. 9. That the members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for their services; but their traveling and other necessary expenses, incurred in the performance of their official duties, shall be audited by the State Auditor and paid by the Treasurer of the State out of the moneys that may be appropriated therefor.

SEC. 10. That the beneficiaries of the Commission shall be persons totally or partially blind, or anyone whose eyesight is so seriously affected that he cannot see to read even with the aid of glasses. No person shall benefit, directly or indirectly, from the provisions of this act who shall have resided in the State of North Carolina less than two years, next preceding the receiving of such benefit.

SEC. 11. Nothing herein shall be construed to in any way abridge the rights and privileges of the State Board of Health in the treatment of the blind, or in accumulating and disseminating information in reference to the blind and in the prevention of blindness.

SEC. 12. That the sum of twenty-five thousand (\$25,000.00) dollars annually, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be and is hereby appropriated out of the moneys within the State Treasury not otherwise appropriated for carrying out the objects and purposes of this act, to be paid by the State Treasurer upon the warrant of the State Auditor to the order of such commission.

SEC. 13. That all laws and clauses of laws in conflict with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

SEC. 14. That this act shall be in full force and effect from and after its ratification.

Ratified this the fifth day of March A. D., 1935.



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